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For the National Register.

SPANISH AMERICA.—No. II.

Mexico.

A province and corregimiento of Nueva Espana in North America. It is 313 miles long in a direct line from S. W. to N. E. from the port of San Diego de Acapulco in the South sea to the bay or lake of Panuco near the North. It is bounded by the province and bishopric of Mechoacan on one side, and on the other by the province of Tlaxcala, a line being drawn through these from E. S. E. to W. Its width is 37 leagues, forming an irregular figure; for being narrow in the strip on the coast of the South sea, it continues widening as it runs N.

It enjoys different climates, is for the most part mountainous, but not without many fertile valleys, watered by different rivers, which render it a country extremely productive of grain, fruit, seeds, and herbs. It produces also cochineal, which is cultivated in many parts, and an incredible multitude of cattle of every species. The woods are thronged with birds notorious for their plumage and their song. The extent of this province, which is as far as its archbishopric reaches, comprehends many alcaldias mayores and corregimientos, in which are counted 235 curacies and 23 missions.

The capital is the city of the same name, with the dedicatory title of San Hipolito, in memory of the day on which the Spaniards took it from the Indians. It is the court and metropolis of the Mexican empire, or of Los Aculhuas, an archbishop's see, and the residence of the viceroy, governor, and captain general, and of the audience and royal chancery of Nueva Espana, erected in 1527, and the jurisdiction of which extends from the cape of Honduras to that of Florida in the North sea, and by the South sea from the point where the jurisdiction of the audience of Guatemala terminates to where that of Guadalajara or Nueva Galicia begins, and to the provinces of Yucatan, Cozumel, and Tabasco. It is the most beautiful, grand, and sumptuous city of the whole of the Spanish monarchy.

It was founded by the Indians in 1327, with the name of Tenochtitlan, upon a lake in the midst of a valley 14 leagues long, seven wide, and 40 in

circumference. It is surrounded by 90 leagues of mountains and serranias, fruitful in cedars, trees, both rare and common, gums, drugs, salts, and metallic productions of all classes, marbles, and precious stones, plain and vari-colored. As well in the mountains as in the valley are beautiful settlements, farms, granges, and estates, in which the European fruits and those peculiar to the country are cultivated. The fields abound in herbage, which render the prospect beautiful, and afford pasturage for innumerable herds of cattle of every kind. The rivers and lakes fertilize the territory, and by them are carried to the capital all the most delicate fruits, during the different seasons of the year. Here are all kinds of vegetables, garden herbs, and grain, ducks, geese, wild-geons, quails, fish, eels, and other productions, birds much valued for their song and plumage; and above all, the soil is extremely fertile in flax, hemp, cotton, tobacco, indigo, sugar, and magueyes or pita, of the branches of which is made a great commerce, and such as greatly enriches the royal exchequer.

In the time of the gentility of the Indians there were 140,000 houses, and these were divided into four quarters or wards, an infinite number of temples dedicated to their idols, the most celebrated of which was that erected to Huitzilopochtli, the god of war, built upon a pyramical square tableland of 40 feet high, and to which there was an ascent by a staircase of 140 steps, wide enough to receive eight men abreast; the whole forming an edifice so magnificent as to strike the Spaniards with astonishment; though not less so did the great plaza or market place of Tlateluco, of which now not even the vestiges remain.

The Spaniards, led on by the celebrated Hernan Cortes, gained this city on the 13th day of August, 1521. It was dedicated to the martyr San Hipolito, its sworn patron, and in memory of whom the pennant is taken down every year by the royal Alferez, and carried in splendid procession by the viceroy, the audience, the tribunals, the city council, and the nobility, to the church of the said saint, to the vespers, and to the mass, said by way of gratitude and thanks.

The plan of the city is square; its diameter within the gates is 4340 Spanish yards from N. to S. and 3640 from E. to W. the ground is level, the streets straight, and drawn at right lines, being a little more than 14 yards wide. The town is surrounded with a wall of uncemented stones, and the channels which lead from the lake dis-

perse their waters in various small canals, which flow through some beautiful streets, and are covered with craft and canoes, which every day appear loaded with supplies of fruit, flowers, &c. and make their way up as far as the walls of the palace of the viceroy, which is situate in the plaza mayor. The buildings are magnificent, and some of them of the most beautiful architecture. There are different markets, where there is a regular supply of every thing that the public can require. This city is entered by seven stone causeways, which are, Guadalupe to the N. Tacuba to the W. San Antonio to the S. built by the Indians, and the others by the Spaniards, their names being La Piedad, Ascapuscalo, Tacuba, Santiago, and Chapultepec. The whole of the city is paved, the principal streets with freestone, and some of these are arched, so that the filth is carried off.

Here are some beautiful fountains, the waters of which come from various parts; but that which has the best and sweetest water is that which is brought from the settlement of Santa Fe, for more than two leagues upon an aqueduct of more than 900 arches, each of eight yards diameter, above three high, and a quarter wide; this canal is open at top, and has a railway of half a yard deep on each side. Another aqueduct similar to this comes from the pool of Chapultepec, about a league's distance, and formerly there was one towards the S. through Churubusco, of which nothing but the vestiges remain. Here are some beautiful promenades, both in the country and by the water side, the principal of which is that which was made in the time of the viceroy Don Antonio Bucareli; also a theatre for plays, a cockpit, a tennis-court, &c. many gambling places, billiard tables; inns, and taverns; 42 pulquerias, in which are sold daily 100,000 quarts of pulque, this being the liquor or wine of the Magueyes. There are different palaces and public buildings, such as that of the viceroy, where reside the tribunals, the secretaries, the officers of the treasury, and of the royal revenues. There is also a mint, in which in some years have been coined upwards of 23,000,000 of dollars; also the inquisition, together with the office for its ministers, and the prison for the culprits.

What further tends to ornament this city are the royal audience and court for the judgment of crimes, composed of the viceroy, the regent, ten oidors, five alcaldes, three fiscals, an alguacil mayor, a chancellor, four secretaries of the chamber, and corresponding subordinate officers; the general court of justice for those beyond the seas; or who have died intestate; the royal tribunal, mayor, and audit of accounts; the real caja matriz, or general treasury; that of land and water; that of the general of the Indians; that of the

half-yearly revenue and of the spear-armed soldiery; and the superintendence of the azogues or quicksilver; of the sealed paper; that of the general direction of the alcababas and pulques; of the royal stores; the mint; the tribunal of La Santa Hermandad; the office that takes cognizance of forbidden drinks; the royal junta of tobacco, and the general direction of this revenue; a general post-office, and the office for the revenues arising from powder, cards, &c. the royal depots of dyes, colors, leather, and snow; the tribunals of the inquisition, crusade, temporalities, missions of California, for the direction of the lottery; the sacred and royal place called the Monte de Piedad, for the erection of which the count of Regla most beneficently and patriotically advanced a sum of 315,000 dollars; also the royal tribunal of the consulado, of the mines, the college of physicians, and the tribunal of the Estado and Marquesado del Valle; and, lastly, the most illustrious cabildo, and the other officers of justice, &c.

Independently of the title of most noble, most loyal, renowned, and imperial city, there was conceded to it by the emperor Charles V. in 1523, the title of Cabeza y Corte del Reyno, (Head and Court of the Kingdom,) who also granted to it the liberty of using the arms which it had in the time of its gentilism, which were, a shield, with a castle of three towers, an eagle upon a tunal tree, with a snake in its beak; at the foot of the tree ran some waters; on the side without the shield were two lions, and upon the top a crown; also by a cedula of the 4th of July, of the same year, there were further conceded for the arms of its corporation and of the city, a blue shield of the color of water, to represent the lake, a gold castle in the middle, and three bridges of stone leading to it, the two side bridges not quite touching the castle, and upon each a lion standing, and having his feet upon the bridge and his talons on the castle; and within the orle were ten green tuna leaves, and above all the imperial crown.

In 1530, the same emperor granted to this city the title and privileges of Burgos Cabeza de Castilla, and in 1548, the titles of most noble, most loyal and illustrious city; and again the Senor Don Felipe V. confirming the above ordinances, granted them to be perpetual, in 1728.

It also enjoys the privilege and pre-eminence of being called the Grande de Espana, and the Senor Don Carlos III. granted in 1773, to the persons belonging to the chapter, the use of gold embroidery to their dress and undress uniforms, declaring that they should be preferred before all the tribunals and bodies, with the exception of the royal audience and the tribunal of accounts.

The principal patroness of this city is Maria Santisima de Guadalupe, [the most holy Maria of

[Gualupe,] who was solemnly shown as such in 1537, and from thence she has become almost universal patroness in America. There is a representation of her here, which was said to be miraculously painted on the cloak of the Indian Juan Diego, in the presence of the first archbishop, in 1551.

The temperature of this place is most benign, and it enjoys a continual spring, neither the heat of the cold being at any time troublesome; and although, indeed, the four seasons are perceptible, yet do they all abound almost equally in the production of flowers and fruits. The whole of the city is surrounded by estates, orchards, and gardens, so as to pour in a continual supply of flowers, fruits, vegetables, and garden herbs, for the use and luxury of the inhabitants, save on the F side, which is barren, owing to the great lake of Texcoco, the vapors arising from which, and the particles of saltpetre surrounding it, give a complete check to all kinds of vegetation.

The population consists of more than 350,000 souls of all classes and casts; and amongst these are counted many noble families, descendants from the conquerors and settlers; and for the subsistence of this population there are consumed annually 300,000 sheep, 15,500 cows and calves, 30,000 swine, near 2,000,000 arrobas of flour, and 170,000 bushels of maize. The natives are clever, and have a great disposition for the liberal arts; and in these some have excelled very much, as is proved by the paintings of Cabrera, Enriquez, Vallejo, Pelaez, and Don Juan Patricio. The general character of the Mexicans is that of being liberal, courteous, affable, and charitable. Mexico, in its university and colleges, has produced many characters noted for their virtue, science, and arts, in all times; it has had 84 archbishops and bishops, many viceroys, captains general, ambassadors, generals of religions, counsellors, oidors, dignitaries, and magistrates, who have done honor to the tribunals, ecclesiastic and secular; to enumerate all of whom would form a catalogue too extensive for the limits of this article.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SENATE.

Monday, November 16, 1818.

At meridian, Mr. Gaillard, of South Carolina, the President pro tempore of the Senate, took the chair, and the Secretary having called over the roll, the following gentlemen answered to their names:

From New Hampshire, Mr. Morrill.
Massachusetts, Mr. Mellen.
Rhode Island, Mr. Burrill.
Vermont, Mr. Tichenor, Mr. Palmer.
Connecticut, Mr. Daggett.
New York, Mr. King, Mr. Sanford.
New Jersey, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Dickerson.
Pennsylvania, Mr. Lacock and Mr. Roberts.

Delaware, not present.

Maryland, Mr. Goldsborough.

Virginia, Mr. Barbour and Mr. Eppes.

North Carolina, Mr. Macon.

South Carolina, Mr. Gaillard and Mr. Smith.

Georgia, not present.

Tennessee, Mr. Williams and Mr. Eaton.

Ohio, Mr. Ruggles.

Louisiana, Mr. Fromentin and Mr. Johnson.

Indiana, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Noble.

Mississippi, Mr. Williams and Mr. Leake.

A quorum being present, a message was sent to the House of Representatives, notifying that body of the fact.

A committee was appointed, jointly with a committee to be appointed by the other house, for the purpose of waiting on the President of the United States, to inform him that the two houses were organized, &c. Messrs. Macon and Daggett were appointed of the committee on the part of the Senate.

A committee of engrossed bills was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Ruggles, Dickerson, and Morrill.

A committee of accounts was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Lacock, Daggett, and Dickerson.

Mr. Morrill offered a resolution for appointing a joint library committee, and Mr. Wilson a resolution for appointing a chaplain to each house; both of which resolutions received their first readings; and, after adopting the usual rule respecting newspapers,

The Senate adjourned.

OFFICERS OF THE SENATE.

JOHN GAILLARD, President pro tempore.

Charles Cutts, Secretary.

Mountjoy Bailey, Sergeant at Arms.

Henry Tims, Door-keeper.

Tuesday, November 17.

In the Senate, two other members attended—Mr. Morrow, of Ohio, and Mr. Hanson of Maryland.

Little other business was done than appointing the joint Library committee, for which Messrs. Dickerson, King, and Fromentin, were selected.

Wednesday, November 18.

Mr. Otis, from Massachusetts, attended.

On motion of Mr. Barbour, Friday next was assigned as the day for electing the standing committees.

Mr. Sanford proposed a resolution, that the committee on Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the existing laws in such a manner as that the signature of the President of the United States should not be requisite to patents for land.

Thursday, November 19.

Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, attended.

Mr. Sanford submitted for consideration several resolutions for referring various parts of the President's Message to committees, proposing the following distribution of it: to the committee of Foreign Relations, the committee of Finance, the committee of Commerce and Manufactures, the committee of the District of Columbia, respectively, so much as relates to those several subjects, and to a select committee so much as relates to Indian affairs.

The Senate having, on motion of Mr. Wilson, proceeded to the election of a Chaplain on the part of the Senate, the Rev. John Clark was elected, with few opposing votes.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, November 16, 1818.

At 12 o'clock precisely Mr. Speaker Clay took the chair.

The roll being called over by the Clerk, it appeared that the following members were present, viz:

New Hampshire.—Messrs. Butler, Clagett, Hale, Livermore, Parrott, Upham.

Massachusetts.—Messrs. Adams, Gage, Holmes, Jonathan Mason, Morton, Orr, Rice, Ruggles, Sampson, Shaw, Silsbee, Whitman.

Rhode Island.—Mr. Boss.

Connecticut.—Messrs. Huntington, Mosely, Pitkin, Terry, Williams.

Vermont.—Messrs. Allen, Crafts, Hunter, Merrill, Rich, Richards.

New York.—Messrs. Comstock, Cushman, Hasbrouck, Herkimer, Hubbard, Irving, Kirtland, Lawyer, Palmer, Savage, Schuyler, Seudder, Storrs, Tallmadge, Taylor, Townsend, Westerlo, Wilkin, Williams.

New Jersey.—Messrs. Bateman, Bennett, Bloomfield, Kinsey, Linn, Southard.

Pennsylvania.—Messrs. Anderson, Baldwin, Boden, Darlington, Hopkinson, W. P. Maclay, Marchand, Moore, Murray, Ogle, Patterson, Rogers, Sergeant, Seybert, Tarr, Wallace, Whiteside, Wilson.

Delaware.—None present.

Maryland.—Messrs. Bayley, Culbreth, Herbert, Little, Peter, Reed, S. Smith, Stuart.

Virginia.—Messrs. Austin, Barbour, Burwell, Floyd, Garnett, Lewis, McKoy, Mercer, H. Nelson, Newton, Pindall, Pleasants, Smyth, Tucker.

North Carolina.—Messrs. Edwards, Hall, Mumford, Sawyer, Settle, Slocumb, Smith, Stewart, Walker, Williams.

South Carolina.—Messrs. Bellinger, Middleton, Tucker.

Georgia.—Messrs. Cook, Crawford, Forsyth, Terrell.

Kentucky.—Messrs. Desha, Johnson, New, Quarles, Robertson, Speed, Trimble, Walker.

Tennessee.—Messrs. Claiborne, Jones, Rhea.

Ohio.—Messrs. Campbell and Harrison.

Indiana.—Mr. Hendricks.

Mississippi.—Mr. Poindexter.

Illinois.—Not present.

Missouri Territory.—Mr. Scott.

Alabama.—Mr. Crowell.

The following Members, elected to supply vacancies in the House, also appeared and took their seats, viz.

From *Massachusetts*, Enoch Lincoln, vice Mr. Parris, resigned.

From *Connecticut*, Sylvester Gilbert, vice Mr. Holmes, resigned.

From *Pennsylvania*, Samuel Moore, vice Mr. Ingham, resigned; and Jacob Hostetter, vice Mr. Spangler, resigned.

From *Virginia*, John Pegram, vice Mr. Goodwyn, deceased.

From *Louisiana*, Thomas Butler, vice Mr. Robertson, resigned.

A quorum being present—

Messages were exchanged with the Senate to that effect.

Messrs. Taylor and Baldwin were appointed on the part of this House, on the joint committee for waiting on the President.

The Speaker laid before the House the Consti-

tution of the State of Illinois; which was ordered to be printed.

After the usual order respecting newspapers, &c. &c.

The House adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow.

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Henry Clay Speaker.

Thomas Dougherty, Clerk.

Thomas Dunn, Sergeant at Arms.

Thomas Claxton, Door-keeper.

Benjamin Burch, Assistant do.

In the Senate all committees are appointed by ballot; in the House of Representatives by the Speaker.

The Clerks in the offices of the two Houses are appointed by the Secretary and Clerk of each House respectively.

The officers of the Senate are elected to serve during pleasure; those of the House of Representatives biennially, at the commencement of the first Session of each Congress, to serve until the commencement of the first session of the Congress ensuing.

Tuesday, November 17.

In both Houses the President's Message was this day received and read. In the House of Representatives, it was, on motion of Mr. Newton, referred to a committee of the whole on the State of the Union.

In the House of Representatives the following members appeared, in addition to those already announced:

From *Massachusetts*, Messrs. Folsom and Wilson.

From *New York*, Mr. Ellicott and Mr. Ogden.

From *Delaware*, Mr. McLane.

From *Virginia*, Mr. B. Smith, Mr. Thomas M. Nelson and Mr. Colston.

From *North Carolina*, Mr. Owen.

From *Georgia*, Mr. Cobb.

From *Tennessee*, Mr. Hogg.

From *Ohio*, Mr. Barber and Mr. Beecher.

Wednesday, November 18.

The following gentlemen compose the several standing committees, which have been appointed by order of the House:

Of Ways and Means.—Messrs. Smith of Md. Burwell, Pitkin, Sergeant, Trimble, Crawford and Tallmadge.

Of Elections.—Messrs. Taylor of New York, Alexander Smyth, Merrill, Shaw, Boss, Whitman and Tarr.

Of Commerce and Manufactures.—Messrs. Newton, Seybert, McLane of Del. Mason of Mass. King, Baldwin and Kinsey.

Of Claims.—Messrs. Williams of N. C. Eich, McCoy, S. Moore, Walker of Ky. Culbreth and Gilbert.

Of the District of Columbia.—Messrs. Herbert, Peter, Boden, Cobb, Claiborne, Colston and Stewart of Md.

Of Public Lands.—Messrs. Poindexter, Campbell, Hendricks, Mercer, Terry, Jones and Butler of Lou.

Of the Post Office and Post Roads.—Messrs. Livermore, Blount, Barber of Ohio, Townsend, Sampson, Terrill and Little.

Of Pensions and Revolutionary Claims.—Messrs. Rhea, Wilkin, Ruggles, W. P. Maclay, Owen and Orr.

Of Public Expenditures.—Messrs. Desha, Anderson of Pa. Garnett, Cushman, J. S. Smith, Hunter, and Williams of Con.

On the *Judiciary*.—Messrs. H. Nelson of Va. Hopkinson, Edwards, Beecher, Storrs, Quarles and Moseley.

Of *Private Land Claims*.—Messrs. Robertson, Pindall, Hogg, Hubbard, Bayley, R. Moore and B. Smith.

Of *Enrolled Bills*.—Messrs. W. Wilson and Speed.

Of *Revival and unfinished business*.—Messrs. Taylor of N. Y. Hale and Whiteside.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. H. Nelson in the Chair, on the 10th of the Union; and took into consideration the Message of the President of the United States, yesterday received.

Mr. Taylor of New York, moved sundry resolutions, for reference of the different parts of the Message, to the following effect:

1. That so much as relates to the subject of Foreign Affairs, and to the Independence of the South American States, be referred to a select committee.

2. That so much as relates to Military affairs, and so much as relates to the proceedings of the Courts Martial on the trial of Arbutnot and Ambristie, and to the conduct of the War with the Seminole Indians, be referred to a select committee.

3. That so much as relates to the Navy and to the Naval Depots, be referred to a select committee.

4. That so much as relates to cessions of territory from the Indians, be referred to the committee of Public Lands.

5. That so much as relates to the civilization of the Indian tribes be referred to the same committee.

6. That so much as relates to the subject of Manufactures, be referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

7. That so much as relates to the unlawful introduction of Slaves into the United States, be referred to a select committee.

8. That so much as relates to the subject of Revenue, be referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

9. That so much as relates to the District of Columbia, be referred to the committee for said District.

10. That the said committees have leave to report thereon by bill or otherwise.

These resolutions were severally agreed to without opposition or remark.

Mr. Taylor also submitted, at the same time, four other resolutions, to this effect:

1. That a committee be appointed to consider and report on the subject of the organization and discipline of the Militia.

2. That a committee be appointed on the subject of Internal Improvement.

3. That a committee be appointed on the subject of the Public Buildings.

4. That a committee be appointed to inquire whether any amendments would be necessary to the act of the last session granting pensions to Revolutionary survivors.

Mr. Taylor remarked, on these resolves, that it would be seen they embraced subjects not referred to in the President's message; but he believed it to be entirely consistent with parliamentary practice, in the committee of the whole on the state of the Union, to present for consideration any or all the important subjects likely to

come before Congress during the session. Among these subjects, he thought, were those embraced in these resolutions. Among them, that of the organization and discipline of the militia was unquestionably of immense importance: the subject was indeed among the unfinished business of last session, but he thought it proper to raise a committee on it, that any propositions for improving or amending the system might be referred to it. The subject of roads and canals, too, though not noticed in the Message, was also lying over from the last session, and it was probable that other propositions of that character might be made during the session. The subject of the public buildings was one which had excited some interest and some inquiry into the causes of the disappointment of the reasonable expectations entertained, that they would have been in a greater state of forwardness than they are at present: a committee would properly be appointed to inquire into the matter. The subject of Revolutionary Pensions, also, incidentally noticed only in the Message, had produced some excitement in the country, and a disposition prevailed among some to restrict, and among others to enlarge the provisions of the law on the subject. This, therefore, appeared to him to deserve the attention of the house. He thought the subjects all of sufficient moment to justify the reference of them to committees.

Mr. Pitkin, of Ct. objected to acting on these subjects, as proposed, on the ground that they did not flow from the Message; and that it had been usual, in committee of the whole on the state of the union, on the President's Message, not to introduce any propositions foreign to the Message. He thought the practice a good one, and did not wish to depart from it without strong reason. He therefore moved that these propositions lie on the table.

Mr. Taylor said, that, being in committee of the whole on the state of the Union, every thing relating to the public concerns was fully before them. He did not think it important that his motion should originate in committee, but he protested against being limited, in committee of the whole on the state of the Union, although the Message had been referred to it, to the range of subjects embraced in that document.

The resolves were ordered to lie on the table, by a vote of 61 to 50.

The committee rose and reported the resolves previously agreed to, which were concurred in by the house.

Mr. Taylor then moved, anew, the propositions last above stated, which, in committee, had been ordered to lie on the table.

After some conversation as to the manner, rather than the matter, of the resolves, in which Messrs. Smith, of Md. Taylor, Harrison, and Poindexter, took part, the resolves were agreed to.

The resolution of the Senate for appointing a joint library committee was taken up and agreed to.

That for the appointment of a Chaplain to each house was also agreed to.

The House then proceeded to ballot for a Chaplain on its part. Rev. Burgess Allison was nominated by Mr. Bloomfield, and Dr. Wm. Rogers by Mr. Sergeant. The votes being counted out, were found to be

For Rev. Burgess Allison,
Dr. Wm. Rogers,

72
52

So Mr. Allison was chosen Chaplain on the part of the House of Representatives.

Thursday, November 19.

The following gentlemen were announced as having been appointed to compose the several committees yesterday established, viz:

On Foreign Affairs—Messrs. Forsyth, Holmes, Barbour of Va. Spencer, Baldwin, Allen of Vt. and Hopkinson

On Military Affairs—Messrs. Johnson of Ky. Reed, T. M. Nelson, Huntingdon, Gage, Stewart of N. C. and Peter.

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Pleasants, Silsbee, Parrott, Sawyer, Schuyler, Rogers, and Bateman.

On the subject of Indian Affairs—Messrs. Southard, Williams of N. Y. Murray, Walker of N. C. Richards, Butler of N. H. and Pegram.

On the illicit introduction of Slaves—Messrs. Middleton, Upham, Lawyer, Floyd, Mumford, Lincoln, and Linn.

On the Militia—Messrs. Harrison, Symth of Va. Quarles, Moreton, Jones, Savage and Owen.

On Roads and Canals—Messrs. Tucker, Storrs, Lewis, Sergeant, Porter, Crafts and Marchand.

On Public Buildings—Messrs. Bassett, Bellinger, Adams, Clagett, Folger, Bayley and Rice.

On Revolutionary Pensions—Messrs. Bloomfield, Burwell, Ogle, Wallace, Drake, Herkimer and Wilson of Massachusetts.

Library Committee on the part of this House—Messrs. Seybert, Mason of Mass. and Irving.

Mr. McLean, Representative from the new State of Illinois, being in attendance—

The Speaker stated to the House a difficulty which he felt in deciding upon the propriety of administering the oath to him, in consequence of Congress not having concluded the act of admission of the State into the Union. Under this difficulty, he submitted the question to the decision of the House.

Mr. Poindexter, of Mississippi, said he thought it incumbent on the House, before admitting the Representative to a seat, to examine the Constitution just laid before it, to see, first whether the requisitions of the act of last session were complied with; and, secondly, whether the form of government established was republican, which the United States were bound to guarantee. He illustrated the irregularity of a different procedure, by putting the case that the member was admitted to a seat, allowed to vote on important questions, and the Constitution subsequently rejected.

Mr. Harrison, of Ohio, wished a different course to be pursued, and one for which he adduced precedent, in the case of the representative from one of the states lately admitted. The house had taken for granted the fact of a compliance with the law, and of the republican form of government established, and had admitted the member without question to his seat. In the present case, Mr. Harrison was unwilling to depart from precedent, for mere form's sake.

Mr. Pitkin of Connecticut, said, that this was a question which, he believed, had never before been presented to the house. He thought, for himself, that, before admitting a representative to a seat, the question, whether the people who elected him were a state, ought to be decided. To the decision of this question several things were necessary: for instance, the law of last session required, that the territory in question should have had a certain population, to justify its form-

ing a constitution of state government. This fact ought to be officially established, &c. and the resolution of admission passed, before a representative took his seat.

The question having been put, it was decided, apparently by a large majority, that the speaker should not at this time administer the oath of office.

On request of Mr. Bassett, he was excused from serving on the committee relative to the public buildings.

On motion of Mr. Irving, of New York, a resolve was passed, instructing the committee on naval affairs to inquire into the expediency of extending, for a further term of five years, the pensions to the widows and orphans of the officers, sailors and marines, killed on board the armed ships of the United States, during the late war.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, a select committee was ordered to be appointed, to inquire into the expediency of allowing to Michigan territory a delegate in congress.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, the committee of the whole were discharged from the further consideration of the bill, lying over from last session, for the establishment of an armory on the western waters, and the committee on military affairs was directed to take the subject into consideration.

On motion of Mr. Sawyer, of North Carolina, the committee of commerce and manufactures were instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for staking certain parts of Currituck Sound.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, proposed a resolution, instructing the military committee to inquire into the expediency of establishing two additional military academies, one in the neighborhood of the city of Washington, and one at Newport, in Kentucky.

Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, wished to have included in this resolution a third academy, at some point in South Carolina; it being but reasonable, if the North, the West, and the centre were accommodated, that the Southern section should receive the same attention.

After some conversation, to accommodate the wishes of Mr. Williams, the resolution was so modified by the mover as to propose an inquiry into the expediency of establishing one or more additional academies; and in this shape was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, the committee on the post office was instructed to inquire into the expediency of increasing the salaries of the assistant postmasters general, whose salaries, at 1700 dollars per annum, Mr. J. said, were incommensurate with their important and laborious duties.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, of Kentucky, the constitution of the state of Illinois was referred to a select committee, to consider and report thereon.

On motion of Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, the committee on military affairs was instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the payment for property lost, or destroyed by the enemy, and for horses lost for want of forage, during the late war between the United States and the Seminole nation of Indians.

¶ We are indebted for the report of the proceedings of Congress which we publish to-day to the National Intelligencer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

*Fellow-citizens of the Senate
and of the House of Representatives,*

The auspicious circumstances under which you will commence the duties of the present session, will lighten the burden inseparable from the high trust committed to you. The fruits of the earth have been unusually abundant; commerce has flourished; the revenue has exceeded the most favorable anticipation, and peace and amity are preserved with foreign nations, on conditions just and honorable to our country. For these inestimable blessings, we cannot but be grateful to that Providence which watches over the destinies of nations.

As the term limited for the operation of the commercial convention with Great Britain will expire early in the month of July next, and it was deemed important that there should be no interval, during which that portion of our commerce, which was provided for by that convention, should not be regulated, either by arrangement between the two governments, or by the authority of Congress, the Minister of the United States at London was instructed, early in the last summer, to invite the attention of the British government to the subject, with a view to that object. He was instructed to propose, also, that the negotiation which it was wished to open, might extend to the general commerce of the two countries, and to every other interest and unsettled difference between them; particularly those relating to impressment, the fisheries, and boundaries, in the hope that an arrangement might be made, on principles of reciprocal advantage, which might comprehend, and provide, in a satisfactory manner, for all these high concerns. I have the satisfaction to state, that the proposal was received by the British government in the spirit which prompted it, and that a negotiation has been opened at London, embracing all these objects. On full consideration of the great extent and magnitude of the trust, it was thought proper to commit it to not less than two of our distinguished citizens, and, in consequence, the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris, has been associated with our Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at London; to both of whom corresponding instructions have been given; and they are now engaged in the discharge of its duties. It is proper to add, that, to prevent any inconvenience resulting from a delay incident to a negotiation on so many important subjects, it was agreed, before entering on it, that the existing convention should be continued for a term not less than eight years.

Our relations with Spain remain nearly in the state in which they were at the close of the last session. The convention of 1802, providing for the adjustment of a certain portion of the claims of our citizens for injuries sustained by spoliation, and so long suspended by the Spanish government, has at length been ratified by it; but no arrangement has yet been made for the payment of another portion of like claims, not less extensive or well founded, or for other classes of claims or for the settlement of boundaries. These subjects have again been brought under consideration in both countries, but no agreement has been entered into respecting them. In the mean time, events have occurred, which clearly prove the ill effect of the

policy which that government has so long pursued, on the friendly relations of the two countries, which, it is presumed, it is at least of as much importance to Spain, as to the United States, to maintain. A state of things has existed in the Floridas, the tendency of which has been obvious to all who have paid the slightest attention to the progress of affairs in that quarter. Throughout the whole of those provinces to which the Spanish title extends, the government of Spain has scarcely been felt. Its authority has been confined almost exclusively to the walls of Pensacola and St. Augustine, within which only small garrisons have been maintained. Adventurers from every country, fugitives from justice, and absconding slaves, have found an asylum there. Several tribes of Indians, strong in the number of their warriors, remarkable for their ferocity, and whose settlements extend to our limits, inhabit those provinces. These different hordes of people, connected together, disregarding, on the one side, the authority of Spain, and protected, on the other, by an imaginary line, which separates Florida from the United States, have violated our laws prohibiting the introduction of slaves, have practised various frauds on our revenue, and committed every kind of outrage on our peaceable citizens, which their proximity to us enabled them to perpetrate. The invasion of Amelia island, last year, by a small band of adventurers, not exceeding one hundred and fifty in number, who wrested it from the inconsiderable Spanish force stationed there and held it several months, during which, a single feeble effort only, was made to recover it, which failed, clearly proves how completely extinct the Spanish authority had become; as the conduct of those adventurers, while in possession of the island, as distinctly shows the pernicious purposes for which their combination had been formed.

This country had, in fact, become the theatre of every species of lawless adventure. With little population of its own, the Spanish authority almost extinct, and the colonial governments in a state of revolution, having no pretension to it, and sufficiently employed in their own concerns, it was in a great measure derelict, and the object of cupidity, to every adventurer. A system of buccaneering was rapidly organizing over it, which menaced, in its consequences, the lawful commerce of every nation, and particularly of the United States; while it presented a temptation to every people, on whose seduction its success principally depended. In regard to the United States, the pernicious effect of this unlawful combination, was not confined to the ocean. The Indian tribes have constituted the effective force in Florida. With these tribes, these adventurers had formed, at an early period, a connection, with a view to avail themselves of that force, to promote their own projects of accumulation and aggrandizement. It is to the interference of some of these adventurers, in misrepresenting the claims and titles of the Indians to land, and in practising on their savage propensities, that the Seminole war is principally to be traced. Men who thus connect themselves with savage communities, and stimulate them to war, which is always attended, on their part, with acts of barbarity the most shocking, deserve to be viewed in a worse light than the savages. They would certainly have no claim to an immunity from the punishment, which,

according to the rules of warfare practised by the savages, might justly be inflicted on the savages themselves.

If the embarrassments of Spain prevented her from making an indemnity to our citizens, for so long a time, from her treasury, for their losses by spoliation, and otherwise, it was always in her power to have provided it, by the cession of this territory. Of this, her government has been repeatedly apprized, and the cession was the more to have been anticipated, as Spain must have known that, in ceding it, she would, in effect, cede what had become of little value to her, and would likewise relieve herself from the important obligation secured by the treaty of 1795, and all other commitments respecting it. If the United States, from consideration of these embarrassments, declined pressing their claims in a spirit of hostility, the motive ought, at least, to have been duly appreciated by the government of Spain. It is well known to her government, that other powers have made to the United States an indemnity for like losses, sustained by their citizens at the same epoch.

There is, nevertheless, a limit, beyond which this spirit of amity and forbearance can, in no instance, be justified. If it was proper to rely on amicable negotiation for an indemnity for losses, it would not have been so to have permitted the inability of Spain to fulfill her engagements, and to sustain her authority in the Floridas, to be perverted, by foreign adventurers and savages, to purposes so destructive to the lives of our fellow-citizens, and the highest interest of the United States. The right of self defence never ceases. It is among the most sacred; and alike necessary to nations and to individuals. And, whether the attack be made by Spain herself, or by those who abuse her power, its obligation is not the less strong. The invaders of Amelia Island had assumed a popular and respected title, under which they might approach and wound us. As their object was distinctly seen, and the duty imposed on the Executive, by an existing law, was profoundly felt, that mask was not permitted to protect them. It was thought incumbent on the United States to suppress the establishment, and it was accordingly done. The combination in Florida, for the unlawful purposes stated, the acts perpetrated by that combination, and, above all, the incitement of the Indians, to massacre our fellow-citizens, of every age, and of both sexes, merited a like treatment, and received it. In pursuing these savages to an imaginary line, in the woods, it would have been the height of folly to have suffered that line to protect them. Had that been done, the war could never cease. Even if the territory had been exclusively, that of Spain, and her power complete over it, we had a right, by the law of nations, to follow the enemy on it, and to subdue him there. But, the territory belonged, in a certain sense, at least, to the savage enemy who inhabited it; the power of Spain had ceased to exist over it, and protection was sought, under her title, by those who had committed on our citizens, hostilities which she was bound by treaty to have prevented, but had not the power to prevent. To have stopped at that line, would have given new encouragement to these savages, and new vigor to the whole combination existing there, in the prosecution of all its pernicious purposes.

In suppressing the establishment at Amelia

Island, no unfriendliness was manifested towards Spain, because the post was taken from a force which had wrested it from her. The measure, it is true, was not adopted in concert with the Spanish government, or those in authority under it; because, in transactions connected with the war in which Spain and the colonies are engaged, it was thought proper, in doing justice to the United States, to maintain a strict impartiality towards both the belligerent parties, without consulting or acting in concert with either. It gives me pleasure to state, that the governments of Buenos Ayres and Venezuela, whose names were assumed, have explicitly disclaimed all participation in those measures, and even the knowledge of them, until communicated by this government, and have also expressed their satisfaction that a course of proceeding had been suppressed, which, if justly imputable to them, would dishonor their cause.

In authorizing major general Jackson to enter Florida, in pursuit of the Seminoles, care was taken, not to encroach on the rights of Spain. I regret to have to add, that, in executing this order, facts were disclosed, respecting the conduct of the officers of Spain, in authority there, in encouraging the war, furnishing munitions of war, and other supplies, to carry it on, and in other acts not less marked, which evinced their participation in the hostile purposes of that combination, and justified the confidence, with which it inspired the savages, that, by those officers they would be protected. A conduct so incompatible with the friendly relations existing between the two countries, particularly with the positive obligation of the 5th article of the treaty of 1795, by which Spain was bound to restrain, even by force, those savages, from acts of hostility against the United States, could not fail to excite surprise. The commanding general was convinced that he should fail in his object; that he should in effect accomplish nothing, if he did not deprive those savages of the resource on which they had calculated, and of the protection on which they had relied in making the war. As all the documents relating to this occurrence will be laid before congress, it is not necessary to enter into further detail respecting it.

Although the reasons which induced major general Jackson to take these posts were duly appreciated, there was, nevertheless, no hesitation in deciding on the course which it became the government to pursue. As there was reason to believe that the commanders of these posts had violated their instructions, there was no disposition to impute to their government a conduct so unprovoked and hostile. An order was in consequence issued to the general in command there, to deliver the posts; Pensacola, unconditionally, to any person duly authorized to receive it; and St. Marks, which is in the heart of the Indian country, on the arrival of a competent force, to defend it against those savages and their associates.

In entering Florida to suppress this combination, no idea was entertained of hostility to Spain, and, however justifiable the commanding general was, in consequence of the misconduct of the Spanish officers, in entering St. Marks and Pensacola, to terminate it, by proving to the savages and their associates, that they should not be protected, even there; yet, the amicable relations, existing between the United States and

Spain, could not be altered by that act alone. By ordering the restitution of the posts, those relations were preserved. To a change of them, the power of the executive is deemed incompetent. It is vested in congress only.

By this measure, so promptly taken, due respect was shown to the government of Spain. The misconduct of her officers has not been imputed to her. She was enabled to review, with candor, her relations with the United States: and her own situation, particularly in respect to the territory in question, with the dangers inseparable from it; and, regarding the losses we have sustained, for which indemnity has been so long withheld, and the injuries we have suffered through that territory, and her means of redress, she was likewise enabled to take, with honor, the course best calculated to do justice to the United States, and to promote her own welfare.

Copies of the instructions to the commanding general; of his correspondence with the secretary of war, explaining his motives, and justifying his conduct, with a copy of the proceedings of the courts martial, in the trial of Arbuthnot and Ambristie; and of the correspondence between the secretary of state and the minister plenipotentiary of Spain, near this government; and of the minister plenipotentiary of the United States, at Madrid, with the government of Spain, will be laid before congress.

The civil war, which has so long prevailed between Spain, and the provinces in South America, still continues without any prospect of its speedy termination. The information respecting the condition of those countries, which has been collected by the commissioners, recently returned from thence, will be laid before congress, in copies of their reports, with such other information as has been received from other agents of the United States.

It appears, from these communications, that the government of Buenos Ayres declared itself independent in July, 1816, having previously exercised the power of an independent government, though in the name of the king of Spain, from the year 1810: that the Banda Oriental, Entre Reos, and Paraguay, with the city of Santa Fee, all of which are also independent, are unconnected with the present government of Buenos Ayres: that Chili has declared itself independent, and is closely connected with Buenos Ayres: that Venezuela has also declared itself independent, and now maintains the conflict with various success; and that the remaining parts of South America, except Monte Video, and such other portions of the eastern bank of the La Plata as are held by Portugal, are still in the possession of Spain, or, in a certain degree, under her influence.

By a circular note addressed by the ministers of Spain to the allied powers with whom they are respectively accredited, it appears that the allies have undertaken to mediate between Spain and the South American provinces, and that the manner and extent of their interposition would be settled by a congress, which was to have met at Aix-la-Chapelle in September last. From the general policy and course of proceeding observed by the allied powers in regard to this contest, it is inferred that they will confine their interposition to the expression of their sentiments; abstaining from the application of force. I state this impression, that force will not be applied, with the

greater satisfaction, because it is a course more consistent with justice; and likewise authorizes a hope that the calamities of the war will be confined to the parties only, and will be of shorter duration.

From the view taken of this subject, founded on all the information that we have been able to obtain, there is good cause to be satisfied with the course heretofore pursued by the United States, in regard to this contest, and to conclude, that it is proper to adhere to it, especially in the present state of affairs.

I have great satisfaction in stating, that our relations with France, Russia, and other powers, continue on the most friendly basis.

In our domestic concerns we have ample cause of satisfaction. The receipts into the treasury, during the three first quarters of the year, have exceeded seventeen millions of dollars.

After satisfying all the demands which have been made under existing appropriations, including the final extinction of the old six per cent. stock, and the redemption of a moiety of the Louisiana debt, it is estimated that there will remain in the treasury, on the first day of January next, more than two millions of dollars.

It is ascertained that the gross revenue which has accrued from the customs during the same period amounts to twenty-one millions of dollars, and that the revenue of the whole year may be estimated at not less than twenty-six millions.—The sale of the public lands during the year has also greatly exceeded, both in quantity and price, that of any former year; and there is just reason to expect a progressive improvement in that source of revenue.

It is gratifying to know that, although the annual expenditure has been increased, by the act of the last session of congress, providing for revolutionary pensions, to an amount about equal to the proceeds of the internal duties, which were then repealed, the revenue for the ensuing year will be proportionably augmented, and that, whilst the public expenditure will probably remain stationary, each successive year will add to the national resources, by the ordinary increase of our population, and by the gradual development of our latent sources of national prosperity.

The strict execution of the revenue laws, resulting principally from the salutary provisions of the act of the 20th of April last, amending the several collection laws, has, it is presumed, secured to domestic manufactures all the relief that can be derived from the duties, which have been imposed upon foreign merchandise, for their protection. Under the influence of this relief, several branches of this important national interest have assumed greater activity, and, although it is hoped that others will gradually revive, and ultimately triumph over every obstacle, yet the expediency of granting further protection is submitted to your consideration.

The measures of defence, authorized by existing laws, have been pursued with the zeal and activity due to so important an object, and with all the despatch practicable in so extensive and great an undertaking. The survey of our maritime and inland frontiers has been continued; and, at the points where it was decided to erect fortifications, the work has been commenced, and, in some instances, considerable progress has been made. In compliance with resolutions of the last session, the board of commissioners were

directed to examine in a particular manner the parts of the coast therein designated, and to report their opinion of the most suitable sites for two naval depots. This work is in a train of execution. The opinion of the board on this subject, with a plan of all the works necessary to a general system of defence, so far as it has been formed, will be laid before Congress, in a report from the proper department, as soon as it can be prepared.

In conformity with the appropriations of the last session, treaties have been formed with the Quapaw tribe of Indians, inhabiting the country on the Arkansas, and with the Great and Little Osages north of the White river; with the tribes in the state of Indiana; with the several tribes within the state of Ohio, and the Michigan territory; and with the Chickasaws; by which very extensive cessions of territory have been made to the United States. Negotiations are now depending with the tribes in the Illinois territory, and with the Choctaws, by which it is expected that other extensive cessions will be made. I take great interest in stating that the cessions already made, which are considered so important to the United States, have been obtained on conditions very satisfactory to the Indians.

With a view to the security of our inland frontiers, it has been thought expedient to establish strong posts at the mouth of Yellow Stone River, and at the Mandan village, on the Missouri; and at the mouth of St. Peters, on the Mississippi, at no great distance from our northern boundaries. It can hardly be presumed, while such posts are maintained in the rear of the Indian tribes, that they will venture to attack our peaceable inhabitants. A strong hope is entertained that this measure will likewise be productive of much good to the tribes themselves; especially in promoting the great object of their civilization. Experience has clearly demonstrated, that independent savage communities cannot long exist within the limits of a civilized population. The progress of the latter has, almost invariably, terminated in the extinction of the former, especially of the tribes belonging to our portion of this hemisphere, among whom loftiness of sentiment, and gallantry in action, have been conspicuous. To civilize them, and even to prevent their extinction, it seems to be indispensable that their independence, as communities, should cease, and that the control of the United States over them should be complete and undisputed. The hunter state will then be more easily abandoned, and recourse will be had to the acquisition and culture of land, and to other pursuits tending to dissolve the ties which connect them together as a savage community, and to give a new character to every individual. I present this subject to the consideration of congress, on the presumption that it may be found expedient and practicable to adopt some benevolent provisions, having these objects in view, relative to the tribes within our settlements.

It has been necessary, during the present year, to maintain a strong naval force in the Mediterranean, and in the Gulf of Mexico, and to send some public ships along the Southern coast, and to the Pacific ocean. By these means amicable relations with the Barbary powers have been preserved, our commerce has been protected, and our rights respected. The augmentation of our navy is advancing, with a steady progress, towards the limit contemplated by law.

I communicate, with great satisfaction, the accession of another state, Illinois, to our Union; because I perceive, from the proof afforded by the additions already made, the regular progress and sure consummation of a policy, of which history affords no example, and of which the good effect cannot be too highly estimated. By extending our government, on the principles of our constitution, over the vast territory within our limits, on the lakes and the Mississippi, and its numerous streams, new life and vigor are infused into every part of our system. By increasing the number of the states, the confidence of the state governments in their own security is increased, and their jealousy of the national government proportionably diminished. The impracticability of one consolidated government for this great and growing nation will be more apparent, and will be universally admitted. Incapable of exercising local authority, except for general purposes, the general government will no longer be dreaded. In those cases of a local nature, and for all the great purposes for which it was instituted, its authority will be cherished. Each government will acquire new force and a greater freedom of action, within its proper sphere. Other inestimable advantages will follow; our produce will be augmented to an incalculable amount, in articles of the greatest value for domestic use and foreign commerce. Our navigation will, in like degree, be increased; and, as the shipping of the Atlantic states will be employed in the transportation of the vast produce of the western country, even those parts of the United States which are the most remote from each other, will be further bound together by the strongest ties which mutual interest can create.

The situation of this District, it is thought, requires the attention of congress. By the constitution, the power of legislation is exclusively vested in the congress of the United States. In the exercise of this power, in which the people have no participation, congress legislate in all cases, directly, on the local concerns of the District. As this is a departure, for a special purpose, from the general principles of our system, it may merit consideration, whether an arrangement better adapted to the principles of our government, and to the particular interest of the people, may not be devised; which will neither infringe the constitution, nor affect the object which the provision in question was intended to secure. The growing population, already considerable, and the increasing business of the District, which it is believed already interferes with the deliberations of congress on great national concerns, furnish additional motives for recommending this subject to your consideration.

When we view the great blessings with which our country has been favored, those which we now enjoy, and the means which we possess of handing them down, unimpaired, to our latest posterity, our attention is irresistibly drawn to the source from whence they flow. Let us then unite in offering our most grateful acknowledgements for these blessings to the Divine Author of all good.

JAMES MONROE.

November 17, 1818.

DOCUMENTS

Referred to in the President's Message at the commencement of the second session of the Fifteenth Congress.

Mr. Rodney to the Secretary of State.

Washington, Nov. 5, 1818.

SIR,—I have the honor to present the report herewith enclosed, agreeably to the desire of Mr. Graham, who, on reflection, preferred submitting some additional remarks, in a separate paper.—For this purpose, two of the documents referred to in the report remain in his possession—Dr. Fune's outline of events in the United Provinces since the revolution, and the manifesto of independence by the Congress at Tucuman.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your most obed't serv't.

(Signed)

C. A. RODNEY.

Hon. John Q. Adams,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Rodney to the Secretary of State.

SIR,—I have now the honor to submit to your consideration my report on the subject of the late mission to South America, embracing the information derived from the various sources within my power, so far as I had an opportunity of improving the advantages possessed.

With the history of the conquest of the Spanish possessions in America you must be familiar.—They were principally, if not exclusively, achieved by private adventurers. When completed, a most oppressive system of government, or rather despotism, was established by the parent country.

These extensive regions were originally swayed by two viceroys. The dominions of Spain in North America were under the government of the viceroy of Mexico, and all her possessions in South America were subject to the control of the viceroy of Peru.

The remoteness of some parts of the country from the residence of the viceroy at Lima occasioned, in 1718, the establishment of another viceroyalty at Santa Fee de Bogota, in the kingdom of New Grenada. In 1731 New Grenada was divided, and a number of the provinces composing that kingdom were separated from it. These were put under the jurisdiction of a captain general and president, whose seat of government was at Caracas.

In 1568 Chile was erected into a separate captain generalship; in 1778 a new viceroyalty was established at Buenos Ayres, comprehending all the Spanish possessions to the east of the Western Cordilleras and to the south of the river Marañon.

This immense empire seems, according to the laws of the Indies, to have been considered a distinct kingdom. It itself, though united to Spain, and annexed to the crown of Castile. In this light it is viewed by baron Humboldt in his essay on New Spain.

With some slight shades of difference in the regulations established by these governments, the prominent features of their political institutions exhibit a striking resemblance, as the general system was the same.

Their commerce was confined to the parent country, and to Spanish vessels exclusively. They were prohibited, under the penalty of death, to trade with foreigners. The natives of Old Spain composed the body of their merchants. Though this part of the system had, previously to the revolution, been relaxed, in some degree, particularly by the statute of free commerce, as it is styled, the relief was partial, and the restrictions continued severe and oppressive.

All access to the Spanish settlements was closed to foreigners, and even the inhabitants of the different provinces were prohibited from intercourse with one another, unless under the strictest regulations.

The various manufactures that might interfere with those of Spain were not permitted. They were prevented under severe penalties from raising flax, hemp, or saffron. In climates most congenial to them, the culture of the grape and the olive was prohibited, on account of the distance of Peru and Chile and the difficulty of transporting oil and wine to these remote regions: they were permitted to plant vines and olives, but were prohibited the culture of tobacco. At Buenos Ayres, by special indulgence of the viceroys, they were allowed to cultivate grapes and olives, merely for the use of the table.

They were compelled to procure from the mother country, articles of the first necessity; and were thus rendered dependent on her for the conveniences of life, as well as luxuries. The crown possessed the monopoly of tobacco, salt and gunpowder.

To these oppressive regulations and restrictions was added an odious system of taxation. From the Indians, was exacted a tribute in the shape of a poll tax, or a certain servitude in the mines, called the mita. A tenth part of the produce of cultivated lands was taken under the denomination of tythes. The alcavala, a tax, varying from two and an half, to five per cent. on every sale and resale of all things moveable and immoveable, was rigidly exacted, though in some cases a commutation was allowed. Royal and municipal duties were laid on imports and on the tonnage, entrance and clearance of vessels, under the different appellations of *almoxarifazgo*, sea, *alcavalla*, *censo*, *consulado*, *armada*, and *armadilla*. To these may be added the royal fifths of the precious metals, the most important tax in the mining districts. Besides all these, there were stamp taxes, tavern licenses, and sums paid for the sale of offices, of titles of nobility, papal bulls, the composition and confirmation of lands, with a number of others of inferior grade.

Under the Spanish monarchs, who had early obtained from the Pope the ecclesiastical dominion, and thus had united in their royal persons all civil and religious authority, a most oppressive hierarchy was established with its numerous train of officers and orders, succeeded by the inquisition.

The posts of honor and profit, from the highest to the lowest, were filled almost exclusively by natives of Old Spain.

The principal code of laws, thus maintaining the supremacy of Spain over those distant regions, almost locked up from the rest of the world, emanated from the council of the Indies established by the king, in which he was supposed to be always present. The royal rescripts, the recopilations of the Indies, and the *partidas* furnished the general rules of decision; and when these were silent or doubtful, recourse was had to the opinions of professional men.

This system was generally executed by the viceroys, captains-general, and by the tribunals of justice, with a spirit corresponding with the rigorous policy that produced it. To this form of government the country had for centuries submitted with implicit obedience, and probably would have continued to submit much longer, but

for events in this country and the changes in Europe. The sagacious minds of many able writers, penetrating into the future, had predicted at some distant date, a revolution in South America, before that in North America had commenced. From the period of the successful termination of our own struggle for independence, that of the inhabitants of the south, has been with more confidence foretold; and there is reason to believe it has been hastened by this fortunate event. The conduct of Spain during the war of our revolution, was calculated to make a lasting impression on her colonies. This result was then foreseen by intelligent politicians; many were surprised that she could be so blind to her own interests, after she had on one occasion, manifested the strongest suspicion of Paraguay; for to her scrupulous jealousy of this power, the expulsion of the Jesuits from that country in 1750 is to be attributed.

(To be continued.)

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office,
November 12, 1818.

GENERAL ORDER.

The commanding general of the second military department will take immediate measures for assembling all the able bodied men in his command, who are under sentence, by court martial, to hard labor, for more than nine months, and will cause them to be mustered and inspected, and properly supplied, according to the rules of service. These men will be organized, and put under proper officers, and transported to New Orleans, where they will be reported for hard labor, and constantly employed on the fortifications, according to their several sentences.

The commanding general of the north division will cause a report to be made of all the non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, who may be under sentence of court martial to hard labor for more than six months, on the first of January next; and will take measures for assembling such of them as cannot be employed to advantage within his division, at New York, Baltimore, and Pittsburg, under proper officers; when orders will be given, by the War Department, for transporting them to the public works now erecting on the sea board of Louisiana.

The commanding general of the south division will, in like manner, take measures for removing all such men, under sentence of court martial, as cannot be advantageously employed at the several posts where they are now stationed, to some of the permanent works erecting in his division.

A report of all men under sentence to hard labor, will be regularly made to this office, with the quarterly reports of divisions, that a proper disposition may be made of the convicts, as well with a view to the good of the service, as the punishment of the individuals. No sentence to hard labor, or confinement, will be carried into effect beyond the expiration of the term of enlistment.

By order,

D. PARKER,

Adjutant and Inspector General.

MISCELLANY.

From *McGill's travels in Turkey, Italy, and Russia.*

METHOD OF HORSE-RACING IN ITALY.

The method of horse-racing in Italy is singular. The horses run without riders; and to urge them

on, little bells, with sharp points in them, are hung to their sides, which, when the horse is engaged in the race, act like spurs. They have also pieces of tinfoil fastened on their hinder parts, which, as the animals rush through the air, make a loud rustling noise and frighten them forward. I was much pleased with the horse races at Ancona. A gun is fired when they first start, that preparations may be made to receive them at the farther end; when they have run half way, another gun is fired; and another when they arrive at the goal. To ascertain without dispute which wins the race, across the winning post a thread is stretched, dipped in red lead, which the victor breaking, it leaves a red mark upon his chest, and this is decisive. The first race was deemed unfair, as one of the horses started before the rest; and the governor ordered another to be run the following evening. To guard the course, a great number of Roman soldiers under arms were arranged on each side of it, from one end to the other. The morning after the first race, the wind blew from the north and it was rather cold. I was sitting with his excellency the governor, signor Nidoni, when a messenger arrived from the general, with his compliments, requesting that the race might be deferred till another day, as he thought the weather too cold to put his troops under arms! The governor replied to him, "that as the weather was not too cold for the ladies, he thought it was not too much so for Roman soldiers." I have seen on a day which only threatened rain, a guard of Romans turn out, every man had an umbrella under his arm, the drummer and fifer alone excepted.

DOCTOR FRANKLIN.

The following is given in a British publication, the "Christian Observer" as a speech of Dr. Franklin, in the convention for forming the Constitution of the U. States:

"Mr. President—the small progress we have made after four or five weeks close attendance and continued reasoning with each other, our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many *noes* as *ayes*, is methinks a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the human understanding. We indeed seem to feel our want of political wisdom, since we have been running all about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of government, and examined the different forms of those republics which, having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution, now no longer exist; and we have viewed modern states all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances.

"In this situation of this assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarcely able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of Lights to illuminate our understandings?—In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible to danger, we had daily prayers in this room for the Divine protection! Our prayers, sir, were heard; and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle, must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have

we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, sir, a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, *that God governs in the affairs of men!* And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?—We have been assured, sir, in sacred writings, that “except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.” I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel: we shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded; and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a bye-word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter, from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing government by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war, and conquest.—I therefore beg leave to move.

“That henceforth prayers, imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service.”

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

SCOTLAND.

Extract of a letter from a country village in Scotland.

“This country is still in a miserable state, for although trade is getting rather better, yet numbers are still out of work; and the landed proprietors taking advantage of this, endeavor to reduce the price of labor as much as possible. In this they have well succeeded, and from the following contrast between the price of labor and price of oatmeal, you will easily conceive how badly the people fare.

A laborer's wages from one shilling to one shilling and three pence per day.

Oatmeal from one shilling and eight pence, to two shillings per peck.

Indeed you will be hardly able to imagine how a poor man can manage, to keep himself and family alive from this pittance. I shall explain the manner. Owing to the failure of the crop in 1816, great quantities of potatoes were cultivated next year. The potatoe crop generally succeeded well, and were safely secured; but this was not the case with the crops of grain, most of which suffered from the frost setting in before they came to maturity. Had it not been for the potatoes, numbers in this country must have perished from real want. Although oatmeal be high, yet potatoes are selling at eight or nine shillings the barrel, so that the families are supplied with that food on reasonable terms. Many families have nothing put potatoes three times a day, and oatmeal is as great a rarity as loaf bread was 30 years ago.”

ENGLAND.

London, Sept. 16, 1818.

Polar Expedition.—At length the official despatches from the ships employed on the discovery of the north-west passage have been received, and we understand are most satisfactory.—They are dated July 23, at which time the *Isabella* and the *Alexander* were in lat. 75° 30' N. lon. 60° 30' W. well over to the American coast, the weather

serene and perfectly clear. The variation of the compass, by accurate observations repeatedly made on board both ships was 89°, and the dip 84° 30' which led them to conclude, that they were approaching very nearly to the magnetic pole. It had been perfectly calm: the sea was smooth as glass for three or four days, and the current drifted them to the south-eastward, which raised their hopes of an open passage round the point of America, from which quarter it appeared to proceed. All the way up the middle of Davis' Straits they skirted an unbroken field of ice on the left, but as they proceeded, it became thinner and apparently rotten, and they were sanguine that the moment the breeze sprung up, the ice to the westward would open to them a passage, and allow them to reach the northern shores of America.—The utmost harmony prevailed among the officers and every part of the ship's company, and all were in perfect health. Such is the substance of the accounts which we have been able to learn. There are abundance of private letters to the friends and relations of those who have embarked in this most important and interesting enterprise, The following is an extract of one:—

From his Majesty's ship Isabella, at sea, lat. 75, 25. lon. 60, 7, variation 88, 48, July 25.

“Dear D—This is our last opportunity this year, therefore I could not let it pass without writing, although nothing has passed since my last. We are now to the northward of all the ships that are fishing; we see some a long way astern, the boat with despatches is going immediately to one of them; they have followed a great way this year, and have been very kind in giving us every assistance when in the ice: I sincerely wish them all safe back; they have a long way to go through the ice. The coast begins to look more and more miserable; as we get north it has more the appearance of a chain of ice mountains than land; the sea is one solid field of ice as far as the eye can reach. When the wind blows from the north, we find narrower passages in it, and through them we pass on; sometimes the whole of our men are on the ice, dragging the ship along the edge of the flaws. From the great variation, we cannot be a great way from the magnetic pole; you will see the variation by our last observation on the head of the letter.

“P. S. I cannot yet say any thing about the success of our voyage; the season I think is favorable. Young R. and I had a long hunt after a large bear the other day, but he got away from us. I shall have some long stories to tell you when I see you next.

HOME AFFAIRS.

NEW YORK.

EXECUTION OF JAMES HAMILTON.

On Friday, the 7th inst. James Hamilton was executed at Albany for the murder of Major Birdsall. He left the prison with a countenance perfectly calm and serene, walked to the place of execution, a distance of more than a mile, with a firm and unshaken step, and ascended the scaffold without assistance or apparent reluctance. The Rev. Mr. Stansbury attended him to the fatal spot, and after singing a psalm, he addressed the throne of grace and mercy, in a feeling, fervent and elegant prayer, of about twenty minutes. At the request of the prisoner he afterwards addressed the audience in his behalf for more than

twenty minutes, in the most affectionate and impressive manner. In the course of the address, the prisoner requested Mr. S. to make a public confession for him, of the sense he entertained of the enormity of the crimes he had committed, and of the justness of the sentence, &c.

Hamilton, during his confinement, since his trial, and upon the day of execution, conducted himself with the utmost propriety. He appeared perfectly resigned to his fate, and during the last hour, neither uttered a murmur nor a sigh. When first swung off, the cord broke, in consequence of the friction of the hook above; but even then, neither his composure nor his resolution forsook him. He regained his feet, and ascended the scaffold, as firmly as before.

The assemblage of spectators was uncommonly numerous—probably from ten to twelve thousand; and the crowd through the streets on the way to the place of execution, was so strong as to create serious apprehensions; but in consequence of the judicious arrangements made by Mr. Sheriff itemstead, and the good conduct of his officers, and the military on duty, no material accident occurred.

All the uniform companies of the city, the troops stationed at the cantonment at Greenbush and those from the United States' Arsenal at Waterleat, were on duty.

From the N. Y. Evening Post, Nov. 13.
LOTTERY CASE.

On Tuesday last commenced the trial of Charles N. Baldwin, the editor of the Republican Chronicle, for a libel, in publishing that there had been a fraud and villainy in the management of our lotteries. The trial lasted 3 days, and was committed to the jury this morning a little before 2 o'clock. The defendant relied for his justification on proving the truth of the charges. What these charges were, the public cannot have forgotten: they consisted principally, of the assertion that there was a corrupt understanding between John H. Sickles, one of the acting managers at the drawing, and Naphtali Judah, by which the latter was enabled to have a secret knowledge of the state of the wheel, so as to know that certain numbers would be drawn on a particular day, and that they would not be drawn on certain other days; by means of which information, the latter was enabled to practise frauds upon the other lottery offices, and did so to a large amount by inducing them to insure, as they supposed, against the happening of certain contingencies, but which were moral certainties—Many charges of the same iniquitous nature were stated to the public by the defendant, as well as of negligencies and improprieties on the part of the managers. Numerous witnesses were examined to prove these facts. On the other hand, several of the most respectable men in the city joined to say that they had known Mr. Sickles many years, and he had hitherto borne a good character. Mr. Sickles, Mr. Judah, and Mr. Dennison, were severally sworn on the part of the prosecution, to disprove the charges. Finally, after the address of able and eloquent counsel on both sides, his honor the mayor, (although the court had, with great patience, listened for three days to the evidence and the counsel,) recapitulated all the testimony with great minuteness, accompanied with remarks as he went along, and delivered the cause to the jury just before 2 o'clock this morning. They retired for a few minutes,

and returned with a verdict in favor of the defendant: a verdict, which, I venture to say, met with the approbation of every impartial spectator. In the course of the charge, the mayor said, that Mr. Baldwin had satisfactorily made good the charges which he had published; and that, instead of finding him guilty of a libel, he deserved the thanks, not only of the jury, but of every honest man in this community, for having exposed a scene of fraud and wickedness almost unparalleled. As a correct report of this case is preparing, and will shortly appear from the press of Mr. Baldwin himself; from minutes taken in court by a gentleman of uncommon accuracy, and as the sale of this report will be all that he can expect to remunerate him for the expense this vexatious trial has involved him in, it is hoped that the preference will be given by purchasers to his pamphlet. To this report therefore, I must refer the public for a more particular account of what passed at this extraordinary trial, in the issue of which the character of the state of New York is deeply implicated. When this report appears, it will develop such a train of fraud and iniquity, as will amaze every reader. Counsel for the prosecution, Pierre C. Van Wyck, district attorney, Peter A. Jay, and John Wells, esqrs.—For the defendant, Joseph D. Fay, David B. Ogden and Josiah O. Hoffman, esqrs.

GEORGIA.

Milledgeville, Nov. 3, 1818.—The Legislature of Georgia convened in this place yesterday, agreeably to law. Matthew Taibot was re-elected President, and William Robertson Secretary, of the Senate. Benjamin Williams was chosen Speaker, and William Turner Clerk, of the House of Representatives. At 12 o'clock to-day, the Governor laid before the General Assembly, the following communication:

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

It is with no ordinary feelings of gratification and thankfulness, that I am again, by the blessing of Divine Providence, permitted to meet you in this place. A retrospect of the period elapsed since we last assembled, together with something to regret, furnishes abundant motive for gratitude and exultation.—For although the unexampled prosperity of our beloved country, has experienced some abatement, arising from unfavorable seasons, and other natural visitations, yet not to an extent calculated to alarm or depress, but rather to stimulate to vigilance and exertion, and to awaken in us, a suitable recollection of our dependence on the Almighty Disposer of events, of which man, uninterruptedly prosperous, is too prone to be forgetful.

The war which had commenced during the last year, between the United States and the Seminole Indians, bordering on our southern frontier, has been terminated by a mutual cessation of hostilities, without any particular stipulations for peace.

I should not enlarge my remarks on this subject, but for an event connected with it, which has excited great interest throughout the state. The circumstance to which I allude, is the late expedition, undertaken to retaliate, and thus to repress and chastise the atrocious audacity of the savage inhabitants of two hostile villages, designated from their chief men, Hopaunee and Phelemme.

From these dens, it was ascertained, they made frequent and formidable inroads upon our defenceless frontier, marking their course with the butchery of our women and children, and the other terrific enormities peculiar to their barbarous warfare. Afflictive and alarming intelligence of these depredations, accompanied by urgent demands for protection from those whose situations were most exposed, reached the Executive almost daily.

An early application was made to the commanding general of the military district, for a force competent to the defence of our frontier, but it was several months before it was even noticed. Under these circumstances, I should have shown culpable insensibility to the sufferings of my fellow citizens, and to the duties of the high and important trust with which you have honored me, had I hesitated what course to pursue. I determined to organize a force sufficient to inflict condign punishment on this miscreant foe, and make them feel that the frontier of Georgia was not to be devastated with impunity. At this juncture, Cap. Wright presented himself, as a gentleman recently holding a command in the service of the United States, and bearing commendatory testimonials from persons of high and unquestionable respectability. This person by a general order of the 14th of April (a copy of which, and copies of all the documents relative to this subject will be laid before you) was authorized to collect the troops, and march them upon the two villages notorious as the residence of the murderers and marauders. On nearing the Cheshaw town, they were informed that one of the hostile chiefs was harbored there, and conceiving the spirit of their instructions warranted the measure, they attacked the town, and stung with the recollection of the merciless barbarities exercised on their neighbors and relatives, and their supposed perfidy committed in harboring the enemy, proceeded to extremities, over which humanity weeps, and which I deeply and sincerely lament.

In the general orders, it will be seen, that Capt. Wright was directed to call on Capt. Bothwell of the militia of this state, then in the service of the United States, commanding at Fort Early, for part of his force if necessary. I was not certain that I had the right to call on these troops, but the emergency of the case left on my mind no doubt of its propriety. On the return of the troops and the report of the commanding officer, whose statement was corroborated by the testimony of other officers of the detachment, some of whom are gentlemen of high standing and character in the state, I felt satisfied that although the orders given had been manifestly violated, yet, that the motives which influenced the conduct, both of the troops and their officers, were more the result of a sincere desire to prevent a recurrence of the distressing scenes which had recently been witnessed on the frontier, than any deliberate cruelty or premeditated severity. The subject, however, became a theme of animadversion, and a number of opposite statements being made, both to the Executive, and in the public prints, I deemed it necessary, for the purpose of doing justice to the Indians, as well as to the character of Capt. Wright, to have him arrested.—An order was accordingly issued on the 20th of May, directed to Col. Marshall, at Savannah, the late residence of Capt. Wright, and to

which place, it was supposed he would immediately return.—Before he reached there, however, he was overtaken by an officer sent by Gen. Jackson, who arrested him. On their way to Fort Hawkins, passing through this place, Capt. Wright was released from the custody of the officer, by a writ of Habeas Corpus, before the Inferior court of this county.

On the same evening I issued an order to the adjutant general to arrest and confine him, determining to refer the mode of trying him to the president of the United States; which course I was the more willing to pursue, as it seemed to have been the one contemplated by general Jackson. But before a proper warrant could be obtained to enable the marshal to take him into custody; by means of a paragraph in one of the Savannah papers, he ascertained that the president had directed him to be prosecuted for the murder of friendly Indians, before a special commission to be issued for that purpose, conformably to an act of congress of the 30th March, 1802, and being alarmed, I presume, at this intimation of the danger that might result to him from such trial, effected his escape, and has not yet been apprehended.

I have felt it a duty to the outraged character of the state, fellow citizens, to be thus particular in noticing this transaction, as mistaken one-sided humanity and meddling malignity, have been perseveringly busy in distorting and disguising, almost every circumstance connected with the expedition.

The operation of our penal code has been attended with considerable expense during the political year just ended; the articles necessary for the completion of the building, raw materials for the employment of the convicts, and provisions for their support, have all been procured at extravagant prices. From the experiment of the new system, as far as it has proceeded, we may safely conclude the period is yet distant when the profits arising from the labor of the persons confined, will meet the expenditure incurred. And I grieve to remark, it furnishes but little ground, for the benevolent expectation being frequently realized, of their moral reformation, or of restoring them to society in the character of good citizens. We have, however, the consolation of believing, that this system has been efficient, and by prudent management will continue to be so, in restraining villainy within much narrower limits, than those to which they have been accustomed, and of course, importantly diminishing their depredations on society.

During the year past, I have received from the United States, in drafts on the Banks at Savannah and Charleston, three hundred and seventy-seven thousand and forty-two 73-100 dollars, being the balance due by the General Government, to the state of Georgia, on account of the sale of our western lands; these drafts were deposited in the State Bank for collection, where they were realized and placed to the credit of the Treasurer, and have been drawn for by him as exigencies required.

By an act of the last legislature, the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, was appropriated for the establishment and support of free schools. A like amount was appropriated for the improvement of the internal navigation of the state. These sums I was directed to vest in bank, or other profitable stock, the proceeds

of which were intended to be applied to the purposes above mentioned. The necessary inquiry was accordingly made, relative to the terms on which stock could be procured in the several chartered banks of this state, and it was ascertained that it could not be obtained without giving an extravagant premium, which I did not feel authorized to do. I was however enabled to procure two hundred shares in the stock of the Steam Boat Company, amounting to one hundred thousand dollars at par; and have taken the five hundred shares reserved for the state in the stock of the Augusta Bank, as directed by a resolution of the legislature of the 19th December last.

Propositions have been made by several companies of persons, who have associated themselves for the purpose of establishing banks, to take stock with them; but as the expediency of chartering new banks, is a subject for your consideration and decision, and as in the event of granting new charters, the legislature can provide for the interest of the state, I declined their offers.

According to a resolution of the legislature of the 20th of December last, I appointed a mathematician, commissioner, and surveyor, on the part of this state, to meet those on the part of Tennessee, for the purpose of running and marking the boundary line between the two states. They accordingly met at the mouth of Nicajack creek, on the Tennessee river, and after a laborious tour of several weeks, completed the line, to the entire satisfaction of both parties.

By an act of the 19th December last, I was authorized by the legislature, to appoint a suitable person to examine our navigable water courses, who was to report to me the practicability of improving them, an estimate of the probable expense, and the best mode by which the object could be accomplished. After having been frequently disappointed in attempts to procure a person, competent to the discharge of this duty, growing out of objections to being on the river at a season so unhealthy, I engaged with doctor Willis Roberts, of Putnam county. He commenced at Fort Hawkins, and examined the Ocmulgee to its junction with the Oconee, and then returned, intending to commence again at Barnett's Shoals on the Oconee. Indisposition however, prevented him, and he resigned.

Owing I apprehend, to a press of business at the seat of government, it was not until the month of August last, that I received an answer from the secretary of war, to several letters I had written on the subject, informing me that the president had appointed the hon Willson Lumpkin, a commissioner, to run and mark the lines designated in the late cessions of lands from the Indians to the United States, by which a tract of country of considerable extent and value has been acquired for the use of this state. Mr. Lumpkin has also been appointed to run the line from the junction of Flint and Chatahochie rivers, to the head of St. Mary's, which will form the boundary between this state and the province of East Florida. Conformably to the directions of the legislature, commissioners have been appointed on the part of the state to attend Mr. Lumpkin in the performance of these duties. It will probably be some time before the lines are completed, but that circumstance should not prevent the present legislature from making a dis-

position of the land that must eventually belong to Georgia.

I beg leave to direct your early attention to that part of our penal code which was intended to prohibit the introduction of slaves into this state, except on certain conditions. The violation of that act becomes every day more common, and it is a lamentable fact, that this abominable traffic, has so many advocates among us, that an informer, or even an officer, who would perform his duty by attempting to enforce the law, is by many considered an officious meddler and treated with derision and contempt. I hope the legislature will make another effort to maintain the supremacy of the laws by adopting such measures as will effectually prevent this species of speculation.

I cannot pass over in silence, the situation of our public highways. Considerable liberality has heretofore been displayed, in appropriating funds for the improvement of our navigable water courses, and certainly, our great market roads are equally entitled to legislative assistance.—Your own observations will, I trust, be sufficient to induce your early attention to this subject.

The appointment of two senators to the congress of the United States, will devolve on the legislature during the present session; one to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the hon. George M. Troup, and the other to supply the place of the hon Charles Tait, whose term of service will expire on the 3d of March next.

It is proper for me to remark, that the sum appropriated last year, for the purpose of completing the penitentiary edifice, and for defraying the current expenses of the institution, has been found insufficient. I have, therefore, been compelled to draw on the contingent fund for a considerable sum on that account. I shall not, however, be able to pay the officers and guard their last quarter's salaries, until an appropriation is made for that purpose.

A list of executive appointments made during the year just ended, and a list of warrants drawn on the treasury, will be laid before you.

I cannot close this communication, without expressing the lively satisfaction I feel, at the unexampled prosperity of our common country.—That the great Author of Nature, may continue to watch over us, and bless this favored land, for ages to come, with peace, plenty, and happiness, is the fervent wish of your devoted fellow citizen.

(Signed)

WILLIAM RABUN.

Admiral Brion is said to have obtained the exclusive privilege of navigating the Oronoque with steam boats for a term of years.

A bachelor in Flanders is said to have made a will, leaving four millions of livres to Bonaparte, and then committed suicide!

The situation of the Bahama Islands, from the dispute between the governor and legislature, may be inferred from the following from a Nassau paper, August 12:

"We have no colonial revenue coming in—our poor and public schools are without support—our clergy starving—public creditors without payment for work done for more than two years past—a light house, erected at the entrance of the harbor, locked up, &c."